



Kingdom Value
Impossible Provisions
Matthew 14:13-21

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/more-than-enough>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/feeding-the-5000.html>

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/feeding-five-thousand>

Sermon Outline:

Matthew 14:13-21

1. Jesus Exhibits Compassion Selflessly. Vv. 13-14
2. Jesus Expects Faithfulness Over Ability. Vv.15-18
3. Jesus Enables Faithfulness Exponentially. Vv. 19-21

Matthew 14:13-21

Five Thousand Fed

- 13 Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities.
- 14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.
- 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."
- 16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!"
- 17 They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."
- 18 And He said, "Bring them here to Me."
- 19 Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds,
- 20 and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets.
- 21 There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 14:13-21.

INTRODUCTION

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

1. Have you ever been in a seemingly impossible situation where you felt completely unprepared or overwhelmed, only to see God work things out in an unexpected way? Share briefly.

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. Jesus Exhibits Compassion Selflessly. Vv. 13-14

2. What was Jesus' initial reaction when He heard about John the Baptist's death? Why do you think He did that, and what does this tell us about His humanity?

3. When Jesus saw the large crowd (between 10,000-25,000 people), what was His immediate response? What does "had compassion on them" truly mean in this context, and how did His actions demonstrate His compassion tangibly?

4. How do you tend to respond when you feel deep compassion for someone? Does anything ever prevent you from responding? How can Christians grow in feeling and showing selfless compassion even when we are grieving or tired?

II. Jesus Expects Faithfulness Over Ability. Vv.15-18

5. What was the disciples' solution to the problem of feeding the crowd? Was their suggestion reasonable from a human perspective? Why or why not?

6. How did Jesus respond to their suggestion, and what did He tell them to do? How did their "ability" measure up to the task at hand, and why does Jesus give His disciples an "impossible" task?

7. What did the disciples report they had available, and what is the significance of Jesus telling them, "Bring them here to me"? What does this imply about our role in God's work?

III. Jesus Enables Faithfulness Exponentially. Vv. 19-21

8. What did Jesus do with the obedience of His disciples? How did this miracle display His ability to use weakness and meager resources?

9. Where else in the Bible do we see a miraculous provision of bread and meat, and how does this connection demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah?

10. What are some possible ways the Lord could use your faithfulness exponentially today? What do we need to do to trust the Lord with seemingly impossible situations?

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

Matt. 14:13–21 Compassionate Healer and Supplier for Israel. Jesus begins his withdrawal from Galilee (vv. 13–14) and feeds the 5,000 (vv. 15–21)—the only miracle from Jesus' earthly ministry recorded in all four Gospels.

Matt. 14:13 withdrew. See note on 12:15.

Matt. 14:15–21 Having followed Jesus to a desolate place, the great crowd (v. 14) is stranded late in the day without food. The scene recalls the nation of Israel wandering in the wilderness after the exodus, and God's gracious provision of manna for his people. The explicit mention of twelve baskets left over may symbolize the 12 tribes of Israel as well as the abundance of God's provision. They all ate and were satisfied may also be a prefiguring of the messianic banquet in the kingdom at the end of the age (cf. 8:11). loaves . . . fish. Staple foods of bread and dried or pickled fish, ideal for short journeys into the hills. The loaves were small cakes sufficient for one person's afternoon meal. looked up to heaven. A typical posture for prayer (cf. John 17:1). Jesus said a blessing for the meal miraculously provided by God the Father—a fitting practice for all who trust the Father for the daily provision of their needs (see Matt. 6:11). five thousand men, besides women and children. The total number may have included 10,000 or more. Jesus is the new and better Moses, who supplies the needs of his people.